

**UNCLASSIFIED**OEXA/LLD  
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: EAID, SY  
 SUBJECT: D'AMATO NEWS RELEASE

1. NEWS RELEASE FROM SENATOR D'AMATO'S OFFICE, MAY 3,  
 1983.

BEGIN TEXT: THIS MORNING'S HEARING CALLED BY THE FOREIGN  
 OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS  
 COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE FULL EXTENT OF UNITED STATES AID  
 TO SYRIA WAS ABRUPTLY CANCELLED AFTER THE ADMINISTRATOR  
 OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, M. PETER  
 MCPHERSON, INFORMED THE PANEL THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND.

SENATOR ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, WHO REQUESTED THE HEARING,  
 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS INFORMED LATE LAST NIGHT THAT THE  
 ADMINISTRATOR WAS UNWILLING TO TESTIFY ON THIS MATTER. I  
 FIND THIS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. I HAVE CONFERRED WITH  
 THE CHAIRMAN, SENATOR ROBERT KASTEN, AND WE BOTH AGREE  
 THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS, AND THE  
 HEARINGS WILL BE RESCHEDULED AND STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO  
 INSURE THAT MR. MCPHERSON IS PRESENT TO EXPLAIN WHY THERE  
 IS NEARLY \$300 MILLION IN THE PIPELINE FOR AID TO SYRIA.

I AM MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF  
 THIS MATTER. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE  
 HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THESE FUNDS ARE TO BE USED  
 FOR. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER MANDATES THAT THIS BE  
 DISCUSSED WITH THOSE WHO ARE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR  
 THESE MATTERS. MR. MCPHERSON IS THE ADMINISTRATOR, AND  
 IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE THAT HE TESTIFY BEFORE THE  
 SUBCOMMITTEE, AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE." END TEXT.

2. COPY OF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, 5/4/83, ENTITLED  
 QUOTE ADMINISTRATION BALKS SYRIA HEARING UNQUOTE BEING  
 SENT BY POUCH. NOTE: WP ARTICLE QUOTED A MUCH MORE  
 ACCURATE AMOUNT IN PIPELINE THAN DID D'AMATO. DAM  
 END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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